

**Abstract**

A formulation for use in chrome-free or chrome tanning is proposed, comprising a clay mineral which, after vigorous stirring for 30 minutes in water at 50°C, has a number average particle diameter of less than 2  $\mu\text{m}$  or a bimodal size distribution with a first, finely divided fraction whose number average particle diameter is less than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and a second, coarser fraction whose number average particle diameter is less than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , determined in each case by the method according to ISO 13320-1, by combined laser light diffraction and light scattering, the amount of the first, finely divided fraction being from 10 to 90% by weight, and one or more substances from one or more of the following groups: organic polymers, aldehyde tanning agents, sulfone tanning agents, resin tanning agents, phenol tanning agents, fatliquoring agents, vegetable tanning agents, dyes and pigments.